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Representative
Tami Green

T W E N T Y - E I G H T H D I S T R I C T

2006 Legislative Session Preview

Dear Neighbors,

The new year brings us new challenges and opportunities. It also brings us to a new legislative session.

Serving as your representative in Olympia has been an amazing experience. I am very proud of all we were able to accomplish and I am excited to be back in Olympia to continue to work for you.

In this update I would like to report on some of the changes we made last year and share some of my priorities for the upcoming session.

Finally, if you have time I would love for you to attend one of my brown bag lunches at the capital I have scheduled this session.

Again thank you for the honor to serve as your elected representative. It has truly been a privilege.

Sincerely,

Tami Green
State Representative
28th Legislative District

Come join me for a brown bag lunch at the Capital



I am holding brown bag constituent lunches this session in Olympia. They will be held from 12 to 1 on the dates below followed by a tour of the capital.

February 1st-Wednesday

February 6th-Monday

February 23rd-Thursday

If you would like to attend please RSVP to my office so we know how many people to expect. You must provide your own lunch.

This past year was a tremendous success!

In the last year we passed many new pieces of legislation that will help make Washington a better place to live and raise a family. By investing today we are making sure we have a bright future.

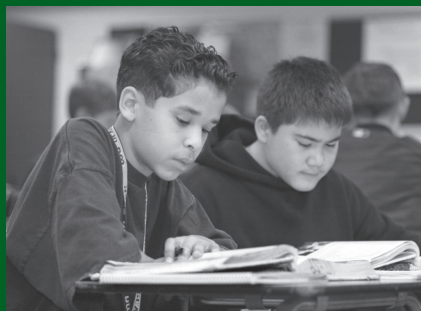
- **Education:** Overall, the 2005 Legislature increased state funding for Washington's public schools by \$981 million – about \$468 per student.

- **Health care:** We passed legislation that will provide health care for an additional 38,750 uninsured children as well as prescription drug relief for seniors that will save taxpayers upwards of \$100 million.

- **Jobs:** I sponsored legislation to create the Job Development Fund which provides grants to cities, towns and other government entities for projects that create local jobs, stimulate economic development, and promote community growth.

- **Helping our Soldiers:** We granted property tax relief for widows and widowers of honorably discharged veterans as well as property tax exemptions for those who are disabled in combat.


- **Fighting Meth:** A new law restricts access to the cold and allergy medications used to “cook” meth. A similar law in Oklahoma reduced meth lab incidents by 80 percent.



What's up for this year?

Progress House

This year I plan to reintroduce legislation to stop the placement of a Department of Corrections (DOC) work release program called Progress House on the grounds of Western State Hospital. Over the last year I have worked with our community to hold public meetings to raise awareness on this issue. Currently the DOC is exploring alternative locations for this program. I will keep you informed on the progress of my legislation. If you would like to come to Olympia to testify in a public hearing on this important issue please contact my Olympia office at 360-786-7958 or by email at green.tami@leg.wa.gov.

Ensuring Warm Homes

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina the federal Energy Information Administration predicts that consumers can expect to spend anywhere from 50 to 70 percent more in energy costs this winter depending on where you live. The Federal Government as a result of recent budget cuts under funded an important government program known as the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP).

This cut could leave thousands of Washington's elderly and vulnerable families without heat this winter. I am sponsoring legislation to fund a one time supplement to increase this energy assistance fund to help out Washington's most vulnerable. No one deserves to go cold this winter.

Energy Assistance

Last year, gas cost about \$2 a gallon. It eventually reached upwards of \$3, and that extra money gave oil companies record profits in the last year. They took advantage of troubled times to gouge consumers. We are looking for new alternative ways our state can increase our energy independence by:



- giving incentives for citizens, businesses and governments to use hybrid vehicles and cleaner fuels like biodiesel and biogas (ethanol);
- jump-starting a local market for biodiesel and biogas so our local farmers benefit; and
- passing reforms to encourage clean, cheap, renewable power like wind and solar.

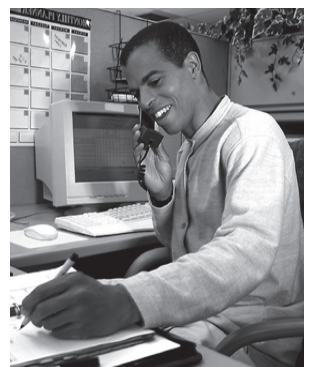
We know this technology works. Our local school buses are running on cleaner fuel so our kids aren't breathing dirty fumes. It is time for Washington to do its part.



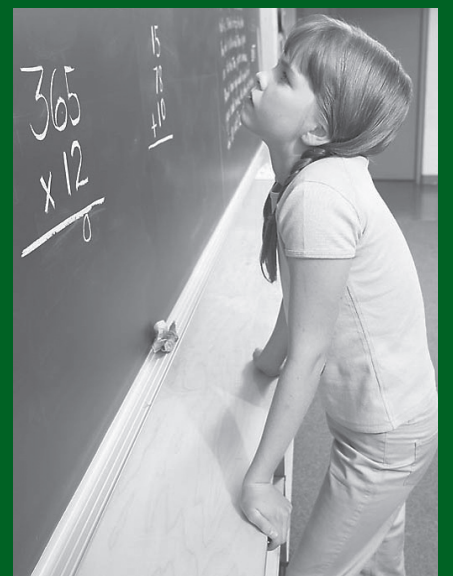
Health care

As a member of the health care committee I will continue the fight to lower our health care costs.

- **Cover all Kids (2010):** I will continue my commitment to get all the children of Washington state health care coverage. This does not mean that they will just all be covered by the state. We will be looking at ways to help businesses be able to offer health plans to their employees and families.
- **Purchasing for quality/other efficiencies:** Like the efforts we made in previous sessions to save Washington millions in health care costs by purchasing prescription drugs in bulk, we will be examining additional means to save the state and taxpayers money on our Basic Health Plan.
- **Small business premium sharing:** Small businesses do not have the buying power to be able to bargain lower rates with healthcare providers. We will be looking at ways to help them pool together to help drive down premium costs.



Rep. Green meets with members of the Washington State Nursing Association.



Washington Learns

Last year the legislature created Washington Learns an 18-month comprehensive education study to take a tough look at our state's education system. It examined early learning through K-12, and higher education. The program brought together educators, business leaders, community advocates and administrative officials and they have come up with some recommendations that we will be considering in the upcoming session such as:

- Making smooth transition points in our educational system pre-kindergarten all the way through college.
- Working on alternatives to the WASL so that children who do not test well will not automatically fail to graduate.
- Ways to ensure that our high schools are preparing students for the workforce as well as college. A close look needs to be made at how to get our students to adequate math levels.